

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



About WasteWise

WasteWise is a free partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that helps organizations save money, improve efficiency, and reduce their climate footprint through waste reduction.

Waste reduction is focused on three key elements:

- Preventing waste before it's generated
- Recycling and/or composting
- Buying or manufacturing recycled-content products

WasteWise is a flexible program that allows partners to design a waste reduction program that best meets their specific needs. Any organization, including large and small businesses, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, and federal, state, local, and tribal governments, can become a WasteWise partner.

Learn More

For more information, please visit:
www.epa.gov/wastewise



WasteWise OnCampus

Goals of the WasteWise OnCampus Program

- Reduce the amount of waste generated on your campus
- Increase awareness on campus about how to reduce waste
- Lead your school to become a WasteWise partner

If You're Interested In:

- Working collaboratively with the facilities staff on your campus
- Collecting and analyzing data
- Evaluating and measuring options for waste prevention and reduction
- Monitoring and reporting progress and tracking cost savings
- Measuring the environmental and economic benefits of the program

WasteWise OnCampus is the program for you!

How to Get Started

The path to implementing WasteWise OnCampus involves a few key steps:

- Join WasteWise by registering online at www.epa.gov/wastewise
- Learn about the waste generated on your campus by conducting a waste assessment – for example, you'll talk with the facilities staff to find out:
 - ✓ how much waste is generated on campus
 - ✓ what types of materials are being disposed of
 - ✓ what amount of waste is currently being recycled
 - ✓ how much your school pays for waste disposal
- Identify areas on campus where waste can be prevented or reduced
- Select the waste reduction program best suited for your school

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for WasteWise OnCampus.

Campus Successes

In 2008, **Rutgers University** recycled or reused more than 15,000 tons of material. Some unique approaches included pulverizing and donating 3,700 tons of food waste to a local pig farm, using 23 tons of used grease and oil for biofuels, and reselling 33 tons of unwanted furniture.

Eastern Illinois University sponsors a program to collect unwanted furniture when students move out in the spring and then makes these items available for purchase by students in the fall. All proceeds from the furniture resale are donated to charity. Other efforts include collecting Freon, automobile and other batteries, and refurbishing and reusing pallets. In 2007, the university increased its recycling rates for mixed metals and plastics by 115 percent over the previous year.

The WasteWise OnCampus program is ideal for students pursuing degrees in:
Business, Environmental Science, Engineering, and Public Policy

Checklist for WasteWise OnCampus

Follow the steps below to reduce waste on your campus.

☐ 1. Join WasteWise.

It's easy to join WasteWise as a partner. Register online at www.epa.gov/wastewise.

☐ 2. Identify opportunities to reduce waste on your campus.

Conduct a waste assessment to identify where waste can be reduced on your campus. Talk with the facilities team to find out:

- (1) how much and what kind of waste is generated on campus
- (2) what types of materials are being disposed of
- (3) what amount of waste is being recycled
- (4) how much your school pays for waste disposal

The information collected will help you pinpoint the waste reduction areas on which to focus. Conduct a brainstorming session to identify potential waste prevention and recycling activities. Make a list of the most promising options. Carefully evaluate the options to make sure you're considering both economic and operational feasibility.

☐ 3. Contact the WasteWise Helpline to set your baseline and goals.

Contact the WasteWise Helpline (see contact information below) to determine which type of waste reduction program best meets the needs of your school:

- **Waste prevention** will eliminate waste at its source.
- **Recycling** saves energy and helps keep materials out of landfills and incinerators.
- **Composting** contributes to soil health and keeps organic wastes out of landfills.
- **Buying recycled-content products** helps to close the "recycling loop."

Data collected in Step 2 will help to establish a baseline for your waste reduction efforts. Work with the WasteWise team to set goals for your program that can be tracked and measured—your goals will help you decide how you will reduce waste on campus. Add the baseline and goals into your campus presentation using the template provided by the OnCampus team and load your presentation into the OnCampus Connector.

☐ 4. Kick off your program.

Hold a kick-off event to promote your program and to encourage students to participate. Check out the tips for scheduling events on the right. Schedule additional meetings with environmental groups on your campus to explain how your program will help your school reduce waste and reduce its climate footprint. Be prepared to share your campus presentation at these meetings.

☐ 5. Report your results in WasteWise Re-TRAC.

As a WasteWise partner, you are required to report baseline and annual data. Use WasteWise Re-TRAC to submit these data with a few simple clicks. WasteWise uses annual reporting information to determine award winners and to promote the achievements of its partners.

☐ 6. Track and measure your progress.

Knowing how far you've come will help you plan your next steps. Measuring your progress will also help to identify how WasteWise efforts are saving money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions on your campus. Use the WasteWise Re-TRAC data management system to keep track of your activities and to run real-time reports about your progress. Update your campus presentation with your accomplishment. Share the WasteWise Re-TRAC reports and your campus presentation with student groups and administrators to publicize the environmental and economic benefits of your program.



Help for WasteWise Partners

WasteWise partners have access to:

- free, one-on-one technical assistance
- useful tools and resources
- outreach and educational materials

The WasteWise team can help you identify waste reduction goals, design a campus program, and answer general questions.

WasteWise Re-TRAC is a free, web-based tool that helps you to track your school's waste generation and reduction activities. Visit: <https://my.re-trac.com/Login.pm>

EPA OnCampus Connector

The Connector is an online collaboration forum for OnCampus ecoAmbassadors to discuss ideas, post documents, and share successes. Access the online forum at: <https://epaoncampus.groupsites.com/login>

Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook ad.
4. Call your friends! Ask them to help you spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Create sign-up sheets for all attendees.
9. Post news about the event on the OnCampus Connector, including the sign-up sheets.

EPA Contact Info

WasteWise Helpline

(800) EPA-WISE (372-9473)
oswwastewise@epa.gov

Allow a few days for a return call. Contact the OnCampus team if there is no response from the WasteWise helpline.

EPA OnCampus Team

EPAOnCampus@epa.gov